



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

No. 131

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, faithfully guide us through life, bringing us where You want us, as we seek Your will. You are our dwelling place, and in Your presence, we find rest. In the shadow of Your wings, we take refuge.

Today, provide safety for the Members of this body. Teach them to delight in Your wise counsel and to hear and do Your will. Give them grace and humility to look to You, to submit to You, and to depend upon You. May the power of Your spirit renew and refresh them physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Guide them securely down the paths that lead to life until they dwell forever in Your presence.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will be in a period for the transaction of morning business for 1 hour. The time will be equally divided and controlled. The majority controls the first portion and the Republicans control the last portion. Under an order entered last night, we will resume the Military Construction appropriations bill after morning business. There are five amendments that are remaining that are in order that are going to be disposed of.

After the Senate completes action on the Military Construction bill, the Senate will begin consideration of the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. The managers of that will be Senator LEAHY and Senator GREGG. This should be a busy day with votes throughout the day. In addition, the education reconciliation conference report will be available and, as I mentioned earlier this week, we will act on that measure this week.

I will talk in more detail with the Republican leader when we have a better picture of what is going on with the Foreign Operations bill and how long it is going to take to dispose of the Military Construction-VA bill.

Democrats and Republicans worked well together yesterday. We have a lot to do. One of the things we have to do is look forward to somehow funding the

Government after October 1. There will be consultations between the Republican leader and me and the appropriations people on Capitol Hill. Also, we have the President to deal with on these issues. Even though there has been a lot made about the difference between what the President wants and what Congress wants, it is not that much different. I hope we can work out those issues.

Anyway, we have a picture ahead of us of what we need to do, and we will proceed to do that business as quickly as we can today and hopefully finish everything today, tomorrow and hopefully not have to worry about tomorrow afternoon or even Saturday. I hope we need not do that. We will keep everyone informed as soon as we can.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me add that I share the goal of the majority leader. There is no reason why the Senate cannot finish not only the bill we will wrap up before noon but also the Foreign Operations-State appropriations bill and the education reconciliation. I will mention that during the years when Senator LEAHY and I handled the Foreign Operations bill—and Senator LEAHY is now the chairman and Senator GREGG is the ranking member—our record, I say to my friend, the majority leader, one year we got it done in one afternoon. I don't know if that is possible this year, but it certainly has happened before.

We will be cooperating to the maximum extent possible to help achieve both these goals before the end of the week.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S11129